



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for Consular Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 20, 1982

[Redacted]

Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, D.C. 20013

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I refer to your letter of September 28 requesting the issuance of diplomatic passports to all FBIS employees stationed overseas.

As you know, diplomatic passports are issued to employees of Foreign Affairs Agencies, and to U.S. government personnel who have been granted diplomatic title, as well as their dependents. Exceptions have been made in certain cases for FBIS employees stationed overseas.

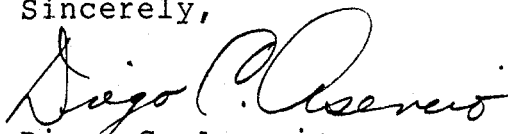
After a further review of your request and after consultation with the respective Ambassadors I have decided to authorize the issuance of diplomatic passports to FBIS personnel assigned to Manama, Bahrain as consistent with the applicable criteria.

Unfortunately the other posts where FBIS personnel are currently stationed the security conditions are not sufficiently serious to justify issuing diplomatic passports under the existing regulations.

I would, of course, be glad to reconsider further requests should FBIS be able to justify need on a case-by-case basis.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,


Diego C. Asencio

State Dept. review completed